

Appl. Ser. No. 10/731,406
Amendment dated November 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

By the present amendment, claim 1 is currently amended, claims 11 and 31 – 34 are canceled, claims 38 – 42 are added, and no new subject matter has been added. Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 30 and 35 – 42 are currently pending in the application, with claims 1, 14, 25, 35 and 38 being independent. Amended independent claim 1 corresponds to objected to claim 11. Newly added independent claim 38 corresponds to objected to claim 5.

Applicants have carefully considered the contents of the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the subject application in view of the explanations noted below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that objected to claims 5 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of objected to claim 11.

Newly added claim 38 includes all the limitations of objected to claim 5, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Newly added claims 39 – 42 depend from independent claim 38.

Therefore, claims 1 – 10, 12, 13, and 38 – 42 are now in condition for allowance.

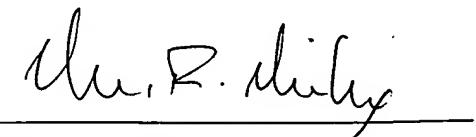
Applicants also note with appreciation that claims 14 – 30 and 35 – 37 are indicated as being allowable over the cited prior art of record.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 10, 12 – 30 and 35 – 42 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcus R. Mickney
Reg. No. 44,941

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 659-9076

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